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AMSAT NEWS SERVICE
ANS-304

The AMSAT News Service bulletins are a free, weekly news and information service of AMSAT, The Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation. ANS publishes news related to Amateur Radio in Space including reports on the activities of a worldwide group of Amateur Radio operators who share an active interest in designing, building, launching and communicating through analog and digital Amateur Radio satellites.

The news feed on http://www.amsat.org publishes news of Amateur Radio in Space as soon as our volunteers can post it.

Please send any amateur satellite news or reports to: ans-editor [at] amsat.org

You can sign up for free e-mail delivery of the AMSAT News Service Bulletins via the ANS List; to join this list see: https://mailman.amsat.org/postorius/lists/ans.amsat.org/

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ANS-304 AMSAT News Service Weekly Bulletins

To: All RADIO AMATEURS
From: Radio Amateur Satellite Corporation
712 H Street NE, Suite 1653
Washington, DC 20002

DATE 2021 Oct 31

AMSAT Board of Directors Meets, Officers Elected

The AMSAT Board of Directors, including newly elected Board members, met via Zoom on Friday, Oct. 29. The day-long meeting included the election of officers for the 2022 year. Elected were:

* President, Robert Bankston, KE4AL
* Executive Vice President, Paul Stoetzer, N8HM
* Vice-President Engineering, Jerry Buxton, N0JY
* Vice-President Operations, Drew Glasbrenner, KO4MA
* Vice-President of User Services, vacant
* Vice-President Educational Relations, Alan Johnston, KU2Y
* Vice-President Development, Frank Karnauskas, N1UW
* Secretary, vacant

* Treasurer, Steve Belter, N9IP

The Board Meeting was livestreamed on YouTube and open to public view.

[ANS thanks AMSAT for the above information]

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construction.
  - GOLF-1 is planned for delivery one year after completion of GOLF-TEE. Much about this and future GOLF satellites will depend on what is learned from GOLF-TEE.
  - Orbital Debris Assessment Regulations (ODAR) complicate the design and licensing of the GOLF 3-U platforms. NASA/FCC assessments assume a worst-case scenario in which everything fails. If everything works, the service life of the satellite is drastically reduced.
  - Current projects are stretching the available human resources, and additional volunteers are needed to assist in the building of satellite hardware.

[ANS thanks AMSAT for the above information]

AMSAT Board of Directors Considers Proposals

At an online Zoom meeting held on Friday, Oct. 29, the AMSAT Board of Directors considered a list of proposals. Adopted were...

* Resolved, that the Board of Directors authorizes the senior officers to acquire a commercially-built FM satellite, including a launch, contingent on funding being received from external sources covering at least 90% of the total cost.

* To authorize the creation of a working group to evaluate opportunities for a flight to a High Earth Orbit / Highly Elliptical Orbit.

* That the President be instructed to create an ITAR/EAR/Open Source policy and that he be authorized to expend up to $10,000 for the retention of legal counsel to assist in the effort.

[ANS thanks AMSAT for the above information]

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* Mike Parker, KT7D, University of Arizona, gave a briefing on the CatSat project
* Nick Pugh, K5QXJ, presented on the University of Louisiana CAPE satellite program
* Jonathan Brandenburg, KF5IDY, presented on Open Source Flight Software Frameworks from NASA
* Bob McGwier, N4HY, presented a paper on OREKIT software
* Alan Johnston, KU2Y, Jim McLaughlin, KI6ZUM, and David White, WD6DRI provided a briefing on the AMSAT CubeSat Simulator and CubeSatSim Lite
* David White, WD6DRI, Jim McLaughlin, KI6ZUM, Bernadette Lally, and Alan Johnston, KU2Y presented on the use of high-altitude balloon transponders as tools for STEM education
* Dave Taylor, W8AAS, and Frank Bauer, KA3HDO, provided an overview and update on ARISS
* VP Engineering, Jerry Buxton, N0JY, provided updates on the Fox and GOLF programs

The day ended with the AMSAT Annual General Meeting, at which public announcement was made of some of the proposals approved by the AMSAT Board of Directors the previous day.

The 2021 AMSAT Dr. Tom Clark, K3IO, Memorial Space Symposium and Annual General Meeting will be available to the general public on AMSAT's YouTube channel, https://youtu.be/RTvcceM7Tz0 at no cost.

[ANS thanks AMSAT for the above information]

New Version of WSJT-X Available

The WSJT-X development team has announced the general availability release of WSJT-X version 2.5.1. This release mainly contains improvements and repairs defects related to Q65 and JT65 when used with nonstandard and compound call signs. Those planning to use Q65 or JT65 to make weak-signal contacts involving a nonstandard call sign should upgrade to this version. Also included is a new feature for microwave aircraft scatter, as well as repairs for bugs detected since the general availability release of version 2.5.0. A complete listing of changes is available in the Release Notes. Links to WSJT-X 2.5.1 installation packages for Windows, Linux, and Mac are available.

[Amateurs using FT4 or other digital modes on linear satellites are reminded to reduce power to the absolute minimum necessary for communication in order to avoid taxing the transponder power budget. In FT4, it is seldom necessary to run more than a watt or so to achieve perfect copy through RS-44 or other satellites.]

[ANS thanks ARRL for the above information]

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The FO-29 transponder will be switched on as the satellite passes over Japan on the following dates and times. It will remain on until the onboard low voltage safety circuit triggers shutdown. Thus, the satellite may or may not be active when passing over areas in eclipse. All dates and times are UTC:

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 6th 00:05- 10:23- 23:10-
 7th 11:12-
13th 00:40- 10:58- 23:45-
14th 11:47-
19th 23:30-
20th 11:32-
21st 00:20- 10:35-
27th 00:05- 10:21- 23:10-
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Source:
https://www.jarl.org/Japanese/3_Fuji/fuji3-202110.htm

Also, schedules for FO-99 are published periodically at
https://www.jamsat.or.jp/?p=1627

[ANS thanks Hideo Kambayashi, JH3XCU, and JAMSAT for the above information]

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space on Oct. 29, 2018 hitching a ride via H-IIA F4 rocket from the Tanegashima Space Center in Japan at 04:08z, and started orbiting in space at 04:51. (ANS thanks the Manila Bulletin for the above information)

+ A distance record has been claimed on AO-109. K8YSE in EN91dh reported completing a CW QSO with AA5PK in DM91sk on 26-Oct-2021 at 01:22 UTC. Also, a new distance record has been set on PO-101 (@Diwata2PH). F4DXV in JN04or70cl and A65GC in LL74el99hm completed a 5,256 km QSO on 10-Oct-2021. Congratulations to all! Distance records for all satellites are recorded at https://www.amsat.org/satellite-distance-records/ (ANS thanks Paul Stoetzer, N8HM, AMSAT Executive VP, for the above information)

+ Due to weather, lift off for SpaceX’s newest Dragon spaceship “Endurance” has been postponed to Wednesday, Nov. 3 at 05:10z. The launch from Kennedy Space Center in Florida, will carry Raja Chari, KI5LIU, Tom Marshburn, KE5HOC, Matthias Maurer, KI5KFH, and Kayla Barron, KI5LAL. Watch continuous coverage of their entire ride on NASA TV at https://www.nasa.gov/nasalive. (ANS thanks NASA for the above information)

+ A TV meteorologist in Louisville, KY, Bryce Jones, did a Halloween feature story on "Zombie Satellites." You can read his spooky story at https://bit.ly/314td61 (ANS thanks WDRB.com for the above information)

+ AMSAT's December 2020 Financial Review has been posted to the AMSAT website at https://www.amsat.org/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2021/10/Financial_Statement_Review_2020.pdf

+ The minutes of the June 1, 2021 AMSAT Board of Directors Teleconference have been posted to the AMSAT website at https://bit.ly/2ZzCvGm

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In addition to regular membership, AMSAT offers membership to:

* Societies (a recognized group, clubs or organization).
* Primary and secondary school students are eligible for membership at one-half the standard yearly rate.
* Post-secondary school students enrolled in at least half time status shall be eligible for the student rate for a maximum of 6 post-secondary years in this status.
* Memberships are available for annual and lifetime terms.

Contact info [at] amsat.org for additional membership information.

73 and remember to help Keep Amateur Radio in Space!

This week's ANS Editor, Mark Johns, K0JM
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